

Summary: Ecology's 'Global Reporting Initiative' Sustainability Report 2011

“The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is a non-profit organization that promotes economic, environmental, and social sustainability. GRI provides all companies and organizations with a comprehensive sustainability reporting framework that is widely used around the world.”

The Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's environment.

The state Legislature directs Ecology to help businesses prepare pollution prevention plans, set goals, measure their successes, and report their progress on a regular basis.



To be an environmental leader in Washington State, “to walk our talk” so to speak, we are helping lead the way and doing what we are asking others to do.

Ecology has completed the first Global Reporting Initiative Report. This summary describes some of the metrics and achievements highlighted in the report.

Environmental Performance Indicators

- ❖ In 2009 as part of the Carbon Smart Initiative, Ecology partnered with an energy services firm who performed an in-depth energy audit and recommended upgrades of our three owned facilities. The projected annual utility savings are \$103,965. The projected annual operational savings are \$25,605.
- ❖ In 2010 Ecology launched a computer and storage virtualization effort to reduce operating costs and meet state priorities. Estimated savings from this are \$1.2 million over five years.
- ❖ Clean, abundant water was once taken for granted in Washington State as a free, limitless resource. Today, we know our water resources are limited and certainly not free. Incentives allowed Ecology to pursue low-flow replacements for restroom and locker-room fixtures saving almost one million gallons of water per year.

- ❖ Ecology has a robust composting system at its Lacey office building that was started in 1996. In 2011, 22,834 pounds of organic materials were diverted from the landfill. Finished compost is distributed to employees in five gallon buckets.
- ❖ Ecology is committed to reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions. Current projects are underway that will reduce emissions by 1,925 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents per year by 2020.
- ❖ Ecology achieved a 20 percent reduction in fuel consumption between 2007 and 2009 by switching 31 percent of our vehicle fleet to hybrids.
- ❖ As of December 31, 2011, Ecology had a total workforce of 1,550 people. Eighty percent of the workforce is in the collective bargaining unit.

Report Scope

Ecology's first GRI report covers July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, although some of the report data is for the 2011 calendar year due to current record-keeping practices. Ecology plans to produce updated GRI reports every other year.

Ecology staff collected, compiled, and wrote the report. The director of Ecology has been a key player in Ecology's decision to adopt the principles of GRI within the department.

Ecology 2011-13 Biennium Budget

The report provides an overview of Ecology's 2011-2013 biennial budget—where the money comes from, how it's used, and what we want to see happen as a result of our work.

Ninety-nine percent of the 2011-13 Capital Budget and 13 percent of the Operating Budget are passed through to local governments and communities to do environmental work. This money is awarded as grants or loans for activities ranging from building water pollution control facilities to reducing toxic threats.

Memberships and Stakeholders

One of Ecology's mandates is to reach out to communities across Washington for public input. In addition to a broad spectrum of stakeholder outreach strategies such as public hearings, meetings, workshops, and open houses, specific committees on targeted topics are engaged for both short-term and long-term input and consensus creation.

Conclusion

Ecology's first Global Reporting Initiative Report in 2011 represents a crucial step forward in our work. This GRI Report serves as an accountability tool to track our internal progress toward improving the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the state. By providing both quantitative and qualitative measures of our efforts, this report allows us to check in, renew our commitment, and celebrate our successes together.

Please visit our report online at: www.ecy.wa.gov/about/gri/2011/index.html. We welcome all questions, comments, and feedback regarding this report.